

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT 1. Housing Regulations in Sofia
2. Restrictions at the Sofia
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Housing Regulations in Sofia

1. The housing shortage in Sofia is severe. Small and old buildings have remained private property, while most other buildings have been nationalized.
2. The following standards of maximum accommodation have been introduced:
 - a. One room for a single person or for a family of two persons;
 - b. Two rooms for a family of three to five persons; and
 - c. Three rooms for a family of six persons.
3. Monthly rent for a room in a nationalized house is between 30 and 50 leva, but it is extremely difficult to find a room.
4. Anyone who is able to prove to the courts that a family is occupying more space than it is entitled to occupy theoretically may obtain a requisitioning order. In practice, this order is not necessarily made out in favor of the person who discovered the room, for the judge may award it to someone whom he considers to have greater priority. Former underground fighters, invalid underground fighters, Party members, and newly married couples receive priority; young bachelors have little chance of obtaining a room by this means.
5. Anyone is entitled to buy an apartment in a privately-owned house, but he may not occupy more space than he is legally entitled to have. If his apartment is too large, he must sublet the extra rooms at the official rate. People often buy apartments in the hope that the subtenants will later leave and that the owner can then occupy this space.

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6. Anyone who sublets a room, or rooms, from his legal quota may get whatever rent he can obtain. In such cases, monthly rents may be as high as 200 leva.

7. It is reported that many bachelors are unable to find any accommodations and habitually spend the night in the waiting room of the railroad station.

Restrictions at the Sofia Railroad Station

8. The public is admitted to the main platforms which flank the station offices. Admission to the arrival and departure platforms, however, is given only when a train has pulled in and stopped. In general, passengers are not admitted into the main section of the station until a few minutes before the arrival or departure of a train. A few "privileged" persons are admitted earlier, but only to the main platforms.

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